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WAVE OF CRIME HITS GRATIOT COUNTY

Attempted Murder and Suicide Last Night in St. Louis

Lynn Barrett, Farmer, Tried to Kill Wife, Mother-in-Law and Himself as Result of Domestic Trouble, is Report.

NONE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Financial Affairs Were Being Gone Over With a View of a Settlement.

Late Wednesday evening, Lynn Barrett, a farmer living southeast of this city, attempted to kill his wife, his mother-in-law, Mrs. John Stewart, and himself, while at the home of his mother-in-law in St. Louis. Three shots were fired at the wife, none of which took effect, one pierced the left arm of Mrs. Stewart, and when Barrett turned the gun on himself, he failed to do more than had before, the bullet glancing from his skull, inflicting little more than a flesh wound.

Barrett and his wife had been married about two years, and it proved to be an unhappy union as the couple never seemed to get along, quarrels being reported as having been very frequent.

About two weeks ago the Barretts decided it would be better to part, and Mrs. Barrett left the farm and went to St. Louis to reside with her mother, Mrs. Stewart.

It seems that the greater part of the furniture at the Barrett home was the property of Mrs. Barrett and a few days ago she went to the farm and secured it, and at that time made an arrangement with Barrett by which their interests in the farm were to be settled.

Yesterday Barrett went to St. Louis about 3:00 p. m., and went to the home of Mrs. Stewart, his mother-in-law, to make arrangements for the settlement with his wife. He remained for supper and afterwards the two started to go over some bills. Just after a bill had been read, which said, "Pay \$60.00," Barrett is believed to have heard an automobile drive up in front of the house, which it is thought was coming for him.

He then pulled out a revolver. His wife noticed his action and quickly dropped and went under the table. Her action came so rapidly, that when Barrett turned the gun on her, the shot missed.

Mrs. Stewart then grabbed at Barrett, it is said, and Barrett put the revolver against her breast, she is reported as having said. She knocked up the revolver with her left arm, and the bullet from the gun took effect in the fleshy part of her left forearm.

During this time Mrs. Barrett fled from the house, and after taking the one shot at Mrs. Stewart, Barrett followed his wife outside and took two more shots at her, both of which missed. He then turned the gun on himself, but the bullet glancing from the skull.

He was quickly brought to a local hospital, and it is reported this morning that he is not seriously wounded.

As soon as possible he will be arraigned in justice court, and will face a very serious charge.

69TH ANNIVERSARY

Medical Profession Aids Dr. Brainerd to Celebrate Birthday.

About thirty doctors from Alma and nearby towns, together with twenty other friends, gathered at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Brainerd on Thursday evening, Feb. 3, to celebrate his 69th birthday.

The dining room was beautifully decorated with pink and white carnations and lighted by 69 candles, and a delicious six-course dinner was served after which a very fine program was listened to by those present.

Dr. E. S. Gardiner of Mt. Pleasant acted as toastmaster of the occasion and after a few well chosen remarks, called on Dr. Day who responded to the toast, "Recreation," in a very pleasing way. Dr. Graham who was to have spoken upon the subject, "The Early Days of Our Practice," was called away and so was unable to respond to the toast.

Vocal solos by Miss Edwards, Dr. Barstow of St. Louis, and Dr. Faust of Ithaca, and a piano solo by Dr. Chas. Dubois of Alma were much enjoyed. At the close of the program, Dr. R. B. Smith was called upon to speak upon the subject of "Friendships" and in the course of his remarks brought out the value of true friendship among members of the medical profession as well as in (Continued on page eight)

DIVISION MANAGER



R. B. KING

KING REMAINS WITH REPUBLIC

Retains Present Position of Eastern Division Sales Manager.

Col. Frank E. Smith, First Vice President and General Manager of the Republic Motor Truck Co., Inc. of Alma, Michigan, has announced the retention of Robert B. King, as Eastern Division Sales Manager of the Republic Truck Sales Corporation, the merchandising outlet for Republic Motor Trucks.

On assuming his duties as General Sales Manager of the Company, Mr. A. J. Whipple found in King a valuable unit in his internal organization personnel and allotted to his attention the details and problems of Republic Distributors within the Company's Eastern Sales territory.

King has been actively connected with the Republic organization for almost three years in various capacities, his service in the Sales Division having begun over two years ago, as Assistant Sales Manager of the north-eastern division. On re-arrangement of the Company's sales territories, King was appointed Assistant Western Division Sales Manager, in which capacity he served until July 1919, when he was placed in charge of the Sales Promotion Department, serving there until the end of that year. He spent the past year in the Eastern Sales Division, first as Assistant Manager, and latterly as Division Sales Manager, which position he retains.

In filling his various positions with the Republic organization, King has acquired an intimate knowledge of personnel, finance and operating methods, of practically all Republic distributors, particularly those of the East.

During King's business career, covering the past ten years, he has had accounting and merchandising training in the hardware, motor, and steel product fields, having successfully occupied important positions with the Lion Motor Co., Wilcox Wholesale Hardware Co., and, for five years, with the Peerless Wire Fence Co., all of Adrian, Mich.

In retaining Mr. King as Eastern Division Sales Manager of the Republic Truck Sales Corporation, General Sales Manager Whipple is assured of another strong link in his chain of factory sales aides.

There can hardly be any better and more nourishing food than well made and well baked bread. Certainly with the present prices it is as cheap a food as one would care to eat regularly, no meal being complete without good bread. Your grocer sells Butter-Nut Bread and can recommend it as being a bread of the highest grade. Buy Butter-Nut and get the best.—86-4w

Jersey milk, cream, cottage cheese and baked goods at the Wolverine Dairy.—adv. 86-9w

GROWERS' MEETING

Beet Growers Will Discuss Contracts at Saturday Session.

A meeting of the members of the Michigan Sugar Beet Growers Association who reside in this vicinity, has been called to meet at the city hall in Alma at 2:00 p. m. Saturday at which time the contracts for the coming year will be up for discussion.

The calling of this meeting is the result of cards sent out by the Michigan Sugar Beet Growers Association to growers in this vicinity which call attention to the contract prices for beets during the 1921 season.

The card says, "The contract for 1921 proposed by the factories offering a base price of \$6.00 per ton for beets and practically the same sliding scale as last year has been turned down unanimously by the delegates of our association. We have adopted the contract adopted by the National Conference of Sugar Beet Growers Organizations as our contract for 1921. This contract has been agreed upon by the factories and growers of the west after a conference of 21 days and is as follows: 6 cent sugar \$7.74 beets; 7 cent sugar \$9.03 beets and up in proportion. The price is to be seaboard averaged for the year around."

The committee is urging every member of the association to be on hand for the meeting Saturday afternoon.

MOVEMENT IS ON FOR CENSORSHIP

Matter of Censoring Motion Pictures Laid Before the City Commission.

The possibility of a censorship of motion pictures and perhaps of plays in this city, is not small, preliminary steps towards the working out of some method having already been taken by the Federation of Churches of this city, and the city commission.

Following a meeting of the federation Tuesday at which the matter of a censorship was unanimously approved, and a resolution passed, the matter was taken up Tuesday evening with the city commission through a committee appointed for that purpose.

Rev. Duffey and Rev. Shouffer, representing the Federation, appeared before the commission and spoke of the action of the meeting in the afternoon and presented the resolution that was passed. They spoke of the need for such a censorship, calling attention to cases which had come to their attention.

Members of the commission were practically unanimous in voicing a sentiment that something should be done in this regard, and after a short discussion a motion was made to defer the matter for a week during which time a committee composed of the city commission, and representatives from the schools, churches, Chamber of Commerce, and the theatre should meet and go over the proposition.

The report of this committee is expected to come before the commission at its next meeting on Tuesday, and it is regarded as more than possible that at that time the city attorney will be asked to formulate an ordinance that will provide for some sort of a censorship.

TO GIVE CONCERT

Alma College Girls' Glee Club To Give Annual Musical.

The Girls' Glee Club of Alma College will give their annual concert at the Presbyterian church on Tuesday evening, Feb. 15. The Glee Club this year is under the direction of Prof. B. M. Beaussant and will be assisted by Grace D. Roberts, organist, and accompanied by Florence Purdy. The program follows:

Little Papoose—Josephine Sherwood.
The Romance of a Cake Shop—M. C. Osbourne.
The Slumber Song of the Sea—C. W. Combs.
Boat Song—Ward Sproul.
In Pleasure—H. B. Hatch.
March from Queen of Sheba—Gounod—Miss Roberts.

A Midsummer Night Cantata—Paul Bliss. 1. Brightly Beaming in the Heavens Above; 2. O'er Hill and Dale; 3. Shadows; 4. Vassals of Mine; 5. Hear the Monotonous Beat of the Rain; 6. Come Birds of the Wildwood Free; 7. Finale.

Solos by Fromilda Young.

The price of admission for this concert will be 50 cents. The Glee Club expect to take several week-end tours later for concerts in nearby cities.

NOTICE

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Alma Chamber of Commerce will be held at the city hall Tuesday evening, February 22, 8 o'clock. 86-1c

COMMITTEE IS RE-ORGANIZED

Republicans of County Held Convention in Ithaca on Monday.

O. L. SMITH IS CHAIRMAN

Alma People Elected as Officers for the First Time in Many Years.

The Republican County Convention held at Ithaca Monday saw a re-organization of the county committee for the first time since Ora L. Smith was named as secretary of that committee, and under the change that was made at the convention Smith replaces C. J. Chambers as chairman. Mrs. Frank E. Pollasky of Alma is vice chairman, John C. Chick of Alma is secretary and W. O. Watson of Breckenridge is the treasurer.

The re-organization of the committee held the biggest interest probably of any work before the convention and it drew out almost full delegations from St. Louis, Ithaca, Wheeler township and from the City of Alma.

It was called to order by county chairman, C. J. Chambers. County secretary O. L. Smith read the call. Mr. Chambers called Hon. James G. Kress to the chair as temporary chairman. Mr. Kress made a brief speech congratulating the Republicans on the splendid turnout to the convention and on the magnificent victory of last fall which made everyone feel happy. S. O. Burgdorf of St. Louis was elected secretary and Mrs. Rena Cowdery and C. V. Calkins tellers.

Communication was read from State Chairman Cady relative to re-organization of the county committee and recommending that there be two members from each precinct, one man and one woman, and that the vice chairman of the county committee be a woman.

On motion of J. N. McCall three committees, a committee on "Permanent Organization and Order of Business," "Credentials," and "Resolutions," was appointed by the chair as follows:

Permanent Organization and Order of Business—Chas. Heister, Ithaca; F. E. Pollasky, Alma; Fred Bernhardt, St. Louis.

Credentials—Eugene Becker, Lafayette; J. D. Spinnery, Alma; Sidney Evey, Ithaca.

Resolutions—J. N. McCall, Ithaca; C. W. Giddings, St. Louis; Herbert Smith, Bannister.

Convention adjourned until 1 p. m. On reconvening the reports of the committees of permanent organization and order of business and that of credentials made their reports which were accepted. The officers were then sworn in.

The following delegates were unanimously elected to the state convention: James P. Gibbs, Ithaca; D. C. Hubbard, St. Louis; Frank Stone, Alma; G. R. Aldrich, Lafayette; H. S. Babcock, Alma; R. L. Farnum, Ashley; J. N. McCall, Ithaca; Joseph F. Sartor, Jr., Alma; Mr. S. O. Burgdorf, St. Louis; Mrs. Hattie Colwell, Ithaca; Mrs. Rena Cowdery, Ithaca; Mrs. James P. Gibbs, Ithaca; Mrs. Janet Branch, St. Louis.

For the election for county chairman two names were presented, O. L. Smith of Ithaca and C. J. Chambers of Ithaca. Mr. Chambers immediately got up and stated that he had been county chairman ten years. That he had never asked for the place and did not now ask for it, nor was he in any sense a candidate. The proposition then went to a vote and stood 45 for Smith to 43 for Chambers. On motion of a delegate, Mr. Smith was declared elected.

Mrs. Frank Pollasky of Alma was elected vice chairman, and John C. Chick of Alma secretary.

Homer Dunham of Alma and W. C. Watson of Breckenridge were nominated for treasurer, but Mr. Dunham withdrew and Mr. Watson was unanimously elected.

This completed the list of officers except the two from each precinct which were nominated and elected as follows:

Alma, 1st ward, precinct No. 1—J. E. Fuller; Mrs. E. L. Smith.
Alma, 1st ward, precinct No. 2—Burton Hopkins, Mrs. Jerome Kanter.

Alma, 2nd ward, precinct No. 1—Homer Dunham, Mrs. Glen Crisp.
Alma, 2nd ward, precinct No. 2—Chet Knight, Mrs. J. P. Losey.

Alma, 3rd ward—H. S. Babcock, Nevada Rockwell.

Alma, 4th ward—C. V. Calkins, Mrs. Eugene Holcomb.

New Haven—M. C. Morris, Mrs. Una Mulnix.

Aracata—John Rush, Mrs. John Rush.

(Continued on page four)

PRaises TRAINING

Macey Furniture Company Praises Army Training Highly.

Charles E. Marsh, sergeant, in charge of the Alma recruiting office, has submitted a study of, of men who have been in the Military Service and those who have not.

"I wish to advise you of the results of some comparisons which I have made a study of, of men who have been in the Military Service and those who have not.

"I have found that being in the service has been of great benefit to the men with a very small percentage of exceptions. The ex-service men are better developed physically which enables them to perform their duties with less effort and consequently with more efficiency. We find also that they are prepared to follow the shop discipline without argument which also gives better and greater production. They are clean and healthy and have learned how to keep themselves that way.

"In many cases the vocational training that they have received in the service has placed them in positions of much greater value to their employers, thus helping both the employers and themselves.

"Altogether we are very much in favor of the men who have been in the service and have availed themselves physically and mentally, and who are clean, healthy and well disciplined."

EVANGELISTIC WORK PLANNED

Churches of County Will Unite in Pre-Easter Campaign for Members.

Friday afternoon a meeting was held in the First Methodist church which it is believed will result in a great amount of good for the entire county, it having as its purpose the co-operation of all the protestant churches of the county in an evangelistic effort. The meeting was called at the suggestion of Bishop Henderson of Detroit and all ministers of the protestant churches of the county were invited to attend.

Bishop Henderson stated that he was present as the chairman of the Evangelistic committee of the Michigan Association of Churches. This association has recently been formed with a view of securing co-operation among all protestant bodies in the state in undertaking those tasks which are common to all. One such task is that of leading men to church, and he definitely suggested that in Gratiot County all protestant churches plan now, each in its own way and using its own workers, for a soul winning campaign, which should reach its climax at Easter time.

Statistics have proven that most people are on the constituency roll of some church. If therefore all the churches work simultaneously each endeavoring to reach every individual who is already at least to some degree within its sphere of influence, most of the county will be touched.

After Bishop Henderson had closed his address, the ministers present voted to carry out the proposal he had made. As a means thereto the Gratiot County Ministers' Association, an organization which was active some years ago, was reconstituted and the following officers elected:

President: Rev. W. L. Gelston of Alma.

Vice Presidents: Rev. Stillman of Breckenridge and J. N. McCall of Ithaca.

Secretary and Treasurer: Rev. Matt W. Duffey of Alma.

Rev. Duffey declined the office to which he was elected, leaving it vacant. He was later appointed chairman of the convention committee of the association, and Rev. Dewey of the Ithaca M. E. church was appointed as chairman of the publicity committee.

Just what the plans of the association may be in promoting the work proposed will be determined next Monday at a meeting of the executive committee.

It will be remembered that last year in Alma a similar campaign was carried on. This will probably resemble that campaign, but extended to take in the entire county.

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE

The Sunday School institute to be held next Sunday, February 13, in Ithaca will give teachers many new and successful methods of teaching the Bible.

Mr. C. A. Wright will be in charge and will speak at the M. E. church at 10:00 o'clock and at the Baptist church during their Sunday school hour at 11:30 o'clock. A conference of Sunday school workers. All are invited. The county committee of the County Sunday School Association will meet at the same place at 3 o'clock.

Ellen Crowe Found Murdered Near Her Home on Brown St.

County and City Officials Are Maintaining Silence in Regard to Their Movements in the Investigations of Mysterious Case.

NO ARRESTS MADE AS YET

Lack of Good Clues in Case is Making It a Difficult One for the Officers to Handle, But They Feel Satisfied Over the Present Progress.

Not over ten or twelve rods from her home on Brown street Mrs. Ellen Crowe, aged 28, came to her death Saturday night by strangulation, the victim of one of the most brutal assaults in the history of the community, as it took from a family of five children the guiding hand of a mother, so badly needed as none of the children are yet ten years of age.

Mrs. Crowe came to her death, almost at the door of her home, a victim of one or more persons, at a spot that evidently offered every opportunity for concealment for the person or persons who committed the outrage.

While returning home early Saturday night, at a time believed to have been between 7:00 and 7:15 o'clock, she started to cross the vacant field just to the north of her home, taking a well worn path, which plainly indicates that this was the usual route from the Crowe home, it being much less muddy than to go around by the road. Near her home, and located within just a few feet of the path, is a small shack, behind which it is believed the person waited. It is evident that as Mrs. Crowe came down this path and reached a point opposite this shack she was attacked.

Finger prints on her neck show plainly the cause of her death. There is no question but that she was strangled. The brute responsible for the crime evidently took pains to cover up his deed, as the body was found Sunday morning in such a position that no marks could be seen on the neck, a fur collar having been shoved up around the throat, clear to the chin.

Late Saturday afternoon Mrs. Crowe and her daughter, Pansy, aged 9, started for the Cleveland grocery on Bridge street, where the family had been trading. Here Mrs. Crowe made some small purchases, and giving a loaf of bread, a package of butter, and a sack of fried cakes to Pansy, she told her to return home, while she went to the post office to see if there was any mail from Mr. Crowe, who was working in a mill at Alma. After getting her mail at the post office Mrs. Crowe started for her home, but stopped for a short time at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Senkovits on Grafton avenue, for whom she had done some work in the past. This was about 5:45. About an hour later Mrs. Crowe left, starting for her home, still several blocks away. Because of some remarks that were made at the Senkovits home it is believed that Mrs. Crowe started down the railroad track, to take the short cut through the field to her home, as this would eliminate her walking through the mud for several blocks where there was no sidewalk. From that time on nothing has been learned of the movements of the woman.

It was not until yesterday that Alma became fully aware that she was again in the throes of a mysterious murder by strangulation, which even now bids fair to surpass the Epler case in mystery, it being one of those cases that seem to be utterly devoid of clues of any kind on which the officers can make a start in tracing down the murderer.

The body of Mrs. Crowe was found about 10:00 a. m. Sunday by Paul Ritter and Donald Black, two young lads who live in the neighborhood. The lads were crossing the open field going from the Black home to the Ritter home on Grover avenue, when they came in sight of the body and then started for the nearest house.

Meantime William Wilcox, neighbor to the Crowes, started for a pall of water, when he was accosted by one of the Crowe children, who asked if he had seen their mother. Inquiry then brought out the fact that she had not been at home all night long and Wilcox went into the Crowe home and after starting a fire for the children was about to call in the neighbors to start a search for Mrs. Crowe, when Ritter and Black came to the house and told of seeing the body of a woman in the field. A quick inspection showed that it was the body of Mrs. Crowe, and Wilcox immediately summoned officers, and then returned to watch the body, pending the arrival of the officers and the coroner.

When the coroner reached the scene a jury, Willard Sheldon, James Reed, Frank Butler, Allen Hubbell, R. D. Holmes and David Heston, was sworn in. A blanket that had been spread over the woman, pending (Continued on page five)

LEGIONAIRES WIN IN FIRST GAME

Lakeview Independents Fall Before Attack of Strong Local Legion Quintet.

The basket ball team representing the George W. Myers Post No. 132, American Legion, of this city, had an easy time in disposing of the highly touted Lakeview Independents last Thursday evening, winning 31 to 14.

The Lakeview team displayed a fine passing game, but could not penetrate the defense of the Alma team with any degree of effectiveness. In the first half Lakeview was able to count just two field baskets and four in the final half.

The Alma Legionnaires, especially Howe and Gaffney, had their eyes on the netted circle, the former getting six field baskets and the latter five. The passing game of the Alma team was not on a par with that of the visitors, but in every other respect Alma outplayed the Independents. At the end of the first half the Legionnaires were leading 12 to 5.

The Legion quintet shows some fine possibilities with more practice, and with this additional practice should prove a highly formidable aggregation for any team in this part of the state.

Lineup and summary:

Lakeview	Alma
Butler	if
Wood	lf
Kinney	c
Main	rg
Wedderburn	lg
Field baskets—Howe 6, Gaffney 5, Adams 2, Hoolihan—14; Butler 5, Kinney 2, Wood, Main—6. Fouls—Wood 2 out of 10, Gaffney 3 out of 5. Substitutions—Wilson for Kinney, Kinney for Wilson, Adams for Hoolihan, Handley for Dahlgren.	

Score first half—Alma 12, Lakeview 5. Referee—Mullin, Alma high.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL

Another new Sunday school was organized last Sunday by the secretary of the Gratiot County Sunday School Association at the Davis school house with a charter membership of forty-five. It is named the Christian Association Sunday School.

The following officers were elected: Superintendent, Mr. Wood; assistant superintendent, Benjamin Inbody; secretary, Mrs. Jennie Palmer; treasurer, Miss Millie Husted; chorister, James McPaul; librarian, Bernice Wood.